

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany
SUBJECT Planned 1955 Germanium Production

DATE DISTR. 16 February 1955

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1

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1. **More than three years ago Prof. Friedrich Leutwein of the Freiberg Mining Academy proposed to the East German government that East Germany start production, on a technical scale, of germanium. The germanium was to be obtained from the zinc ore waste dumps in the Freiberg and Magdeburg regions, While at that time the government approved the project, it failed to support Leutwein's efforts by making available the necessary funds for the required equipment. After some time Leutwein abandoned his efforts, However, he succeeded in producing very small amounts of pure germanium on a laboratory scale. With the increasing importance now attached in East Germany to the germanium transistor program, Leutwein's project was taken up again by the government and he was commissioned to make preparations for East Germany's own germanium production, on a technical scale, starting early in 1955. The necessary funds and equipment will be made available.**
2. **It is estimated that the East German zinc ore waste dumps contain 0.1% of germanium dioxide.**

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OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
TRAINING OF THE INTELLIGENCE
PERSONNEL

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- More than three years ago, Prof. Friedrich Leutwein of the Freiberg Mining Academy proposed to the East German government that East Germany start production, on a technical scale, of germanium. The germanium was to be obtained from the zinc ore waste dumps in the Freiberg and Meisberg regions. While at that time the government approved the project, it failed to support Leutwein's efforts by making available the necessary funds for the required equipment. After some time Leutwein abandoned his efforts. However, he succeeded in producing very small amounts of pure germanium on a laboratory scale. With the increasing importance now attached in East Germany to the germanium transistor program, Leutwein's project was taken up again by the government and he was commissioned to make preparations for East Germany's own germanium production, on a technical scale, starting early in 1955. The necessary funds and equipment will be made available.
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